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ARCHIVES OF MARYLAND

Edited by Bernard C. Steiner.

Published by authority of the State

VOLUME XLIV (Assembly Series, Volume 21)

Proceedings and Acts of the Assembly (1745-1747)

This volume of the Archives is now ready for distribution. The attention of members of the Society who do not now receive the Archives is called to the liberal provision made by the Legislature, which permits the Society to furnish to its own members copies of the volumes, as they are published from year to year, at the mere cost of paper, presswork, and binding. This cost is at present fixed at one dollar, at which price members of the Society may obtain one copy of each volume published. For additional copies, a price of three dollars is charged.

This volume carries on the legislative records of the Province for three years of petty bickering and faultfinding between the Governor and the representatives of the people. In 1745, several popular bills were vetoed by Governor Bladen who had lost his hold upon the Assembly and, forgetting his dignity, scolded the Delegates. On their part, they were fussily insistent upon their privileges. The main object of summoning the new Assembly in 1745 was to secure an appropriation for the garrison at Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island—a fortress recently brilliantly captured by the New England provincial troops and the British fleet. The Lower House tacked on to a bill for this purpose a provision for a Provincial Agent in London. The Upper House denounced this tacking and, as the Lower House refused to recede from its position, the bill failed. The proceedings as to three contested elections are of interest, and a large number of yea and nay votes are recorded, which afford a method of ascertaining that the Eastern Shore and Annapolis generally belonged to the Proprietary Party, while Southern Maryland was Anti-Proprietary. In March, 1745/6, another new Assembly met, summoned because of the Jacobite Rebellion in England and of the fear that the Iroquois might shift their alliance to the French, but nothing was done.

The Assembly again met in June, 1746 and failed to pass bills for the purchase of arms and ammunition, for the regulation of officer's fees, and for the administration of bankrupt's affairs, owing to dissension. Ordinaries were directed to be taxed to provide funds to carry on the war in Canada. In November a brief session passed a law for the purchase of provisions for the troops raised in the Province. Governor Samuel Ogle returned to Maryland and, succeeding Bladen as governor, met with the Assembly in May 1747. A long session of nearly two months resulted in the passage of twenty-eight acts, some of which were of very considerable importance: such as an assize law for trial of matters of fact in the county where they may arise and a tobacco inspection law, which was included in a measure for the regulation of official fees. A tax was also laid on tobacco exported so as to purchase arms and ammunition and another tax for the use of the Governor. The sale of strong liquors, the running of horse races and the tumultuous concourse of negroes during the Quaker Yearly Meetings on West and Tred Avon Rivers were forbidden. A two day session in December 1747, was fruitless, as the Delegates refused to make an appropriation for the war. At each session, the question of setting apart the western part of the Province as Frederick County came up, but was not yet settled.

A brief appendix contains, among other documents, a petition from Elkridge, showing how little men had a vision of Baltimore Town's growth, and a quasi passport to four Germans wishing to return to Europe for a visit.

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1924.	MISS SUSAN DOBBIN LEAKIN,	Preparation of J. Wilson Leakin Room and Contributions to its collection.	

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